

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were examined in the subject Office action dated June 9, 2005. In order to expedite allowance and issuance, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15, 17 and 18; Applicants have amended claims 4, 6 and 11; Applicants note that claims 7-10, 12, 13 and 16 remain pending. Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not introduce new matter. Moreover, Applicants further respectfully assert that the amendments merely clarify the scope of the claims.

In the subject Office Action dated June 9, 2005, Claims 1-3 and 6-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green et al (US 6,619,529) in view of Morales (DE 195 20 717). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green et al and of Morales as applied to claims 1-3 and in view of Bolanos et al (US 5,575,799). Claims 15 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that dependent claim 15 is directed to allowable subject matter. In response thereto, independent claim 6 has been amended to recite the allowable features of dependent claim 15, including the features of intervening claim 14. Claims 14 and 15 are thus canceled. In addition, claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 6. Consequently, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 6 is in condition for allowance, as well as claims 4, 7-10, and 16 that depend therefrom.

Applicants also appreciate the indication by the Examiner that dependent claim 17 is directed to allowable subject matter. In response thereto, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite the additional features of claim 17, which thus has been canceled. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 11 is in condition for allowance, as well as claims 12-13 that depend therefrom. The remaining claims 1-3, 5 and 18 have been canceled.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending in the present application are in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of those claims, as amended herein, is earnestly solicited. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their representative, David Franklin at (513) 651-6856 or dfranklin@fbtlaw.com.

Although no fee is due, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.

<p align="center"><u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on</p> <p align="center"><u>September 7, 2005</u></p> <p><u>Elizabeth A. Middleton</u> Elizabeth A. Middleton</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

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